banks to fix at least 3 slabs of rate of interest, for loans up to Rs 50000, between Rs. 50000 & Rs. 2 lakh and above Rs. 2 lakh.

Income Tax Collections in Andhra Pradesh

3460. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total Income-tax collections in Rajahmundary and Tanuku in Andhra Pradesh in 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) what were the targets for these two towns;

(c) whether Government have issued directions to ensure that assesses are treated with maximum respect in these areas;

(d) details of such directions given to the respective officers; and

(e) steps proposed to improve the image of the department all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The total income tax collections of Tanuku and Rajahmundry in financial year 2003-04 and 2004-05 were as under:

(In Rs. crore)

Financial Year	Total income tax collections of Tanuku	Total income tax collections of Rajahmundry
2003-04	14.46	47.12
2004-05*	18.00	50.21

*Collections figures for 2004-05 are Provisional

(b) The targets for collection for Tanuku and Rajahmundry for 2003-04 and 2004-05 were as under;

(In Rs. crore)

Financial Year	Target for income tax collections of Tanuku	Target for income tax collections of Rajahmundry
2003-04	13.70	51.5
2004-05	19.80	54.00

(c) Yes Sir. The Government has issued guidelines for extending due courtesies to all taxpayers, including taxpayers in Tanuku and Rajahmundry.

(d) The Income Tax Department has issued Citizens' Charter outlining the guidelines for providing high quality services to the taxpayers. Through the promulgation of the Citizens' Charter the Income Tax Department has committed itself—

TO BE FAIR

* by being impartial and objective.
* By collecting taxes as per the law.

TO BE HELPFUL

* By being courteous and efficient.
* By displaying names, designations, telephone numbers and locations of the officials dealing directly with the public.
* By informing taxpayers as to their rights, duties, entitlements and obligations under the law.
* By providing information, leaflets, forms, etc. at the Information & Facilitation Counters.
* By providing information regarding procedures and authorities for legal remedies.

TO BE EFFICIENT

* By settling tax matters promptly and correctly.
* By handling personal and business information/materials furnished to the Department confidentially and as permitted by the law.
* By acknowledging all communications from taxpayers on the spot and in any case within 7 days and furnishing final replies within 30 days.
* By redressing all complaints and grievances within 30 days.
* By disposing of all rectification applications u/s 154 of Income Tax Act within 30 days.
* By giving effect to appellate orders within 30 days of the receipt of such orders.
* By issuing refunds within 30 days of determination.

(e) Apart from implementing the declarations under the Citizens' Charter in letter and spirit, the Government also proposes to make law and procedure simpler, to undertake invasive actions like search and survey in very rare cases, to create large Taxpayer Units (LTUs) for facilitating high taxpayers and to create help Centers in cooperation with industry associations, professional bodies and NGOs for facilitating small taxpayers.

Uniform sharing of tax burden

3461. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the protest against higher personal tax rates, particularly from the salaried class;

(b) whether it is a fact that non-salaried people with comparable or even higher living standard end up paying just nominal tax, which is much less compared to the tax paid by the salaried class; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the people from service/business/profession are made to share tax burden uniformly?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Finance Bill 2005 proposes a number of changes in the personal income tax structure. The slab rates have been comprehensively revised and almost all categories of taxpayers stand to gain. It is not true to say, therefore, that personal tax rates are higher than before.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received from a cross section of people on certain perceived anomalies in the structure. These are being examined and Government's response will be conveyed to Parliament during the debate on the Finance Bill.

Circulation of fake currency notes

†3462. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign anti-social elements are spreading their network by introducing fake Indian currency of different denominations in the markets across the country specially in the State of Bihar and in the North-Eastern border areas thereby creating a possible danger of a parallel economy in the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.